

ACADEMY ADVENTURES MIDTOWN SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING & ED AHEAD BOARD MEETING

3025 N. Winstel Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

October 12, 2021 @ 11:30 AM

1. Call to Order, Role Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 AM by John T.

Penczar

Members Present via Zoom: John T. Penczar, Cathy Rex,
Angela Towner, David DeConcini, Gary Best & Earl Doran

Present telephonically: Carol Towner

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2021 & June 17, 2021

Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/second by Mr. John T Penczar - The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes for the School Board.

Motion by Mr. John T Penczar/second by Mr. David DeConcini - The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes for Ed Ahead, Inc.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, Carol Towner & Cathy Rex (School Board)

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, David DeConcini, Earl Doran, Gary Best, & Angela Towner (Ed Ahead Board)

3. Review, Discuss and Approve Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans

Mr. Penczar is a qualified teacher and administrator evaluator through the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Evaluations are done by checking teacher lesson plans, in person observations in the classroom and formal evaluations each semester using a modified Danielson Model.

Formal observations are done two (2) times per year and informal evaluations are done several times throughout the school year.

Motion by David DeConcini moved to approve the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans. Seconded by Gary Best.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, Carol Towner & Cathy Rex (School Board)

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, David DeConcini, Earl Doran, Gary Best, & Angela Towner (Ed Ahead Board)

4. Review, Discuss and Approve FY21 Annual Audit

All Board members received a copy of the Audit. The audit has been received and accepted. No questions on the audit.

Motion by David DeConcini moved to approve the Audit. Seconded by John Penczar.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, Carol Towner & Cathy Rex (School Board)

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, David DeConcini, Earl Doran, Gary Best, & Angela Towner (Ed Ahead Board)

5. Discuss Staffing Roles

We currently have 35 students enrolled.

John Penczar will be $\frac{3}{4}$ Administrator for LEA and $\frac{1}{4}$ Administrator for SEA. Regular salary for LEA duties and extra for SEA Duties.

Angela Towner will be $\frac{1}{2}$ Administrator for SEA and $\frac{1}{2}$ Teacher

C. Ottalie Davis will be $\frac{1}{2}$ Time Title 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ Time EL

Motion by Cathy Rex moved to approve the Staffing roles as described. Seconded by John Penczar.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, Carol Towner & Cathy Rex (School Board)

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, David DeConcini, Earl Doran, Gary Best, & Angela Towner (Ed Ahead Board)

6. Student Assessments & Program (Added to Agenda)

Mrs. Megan Gilbert (teacher) spoke to the Boards regarding the Assessments being done in the classrooms.

Students are taking “show what you know” weekly summative assessments that are 10 questions (5 ELA and 5 Math) based on standards they students are working on. These are teacher created tests in Renaissance Star, which is our benchmark assessment program (benchmark assessments are given 4 times per year) that is approved by the Arizona Department of Education. All grades K-5 take the assessments. Immediately following the assessments, teacher meet individually with students to go over the assessment and discuss the questions. If a child scores under 60%, they go into reteach that afternoon for added support in mastering the standard. If they scored low but can discuss the questions with the teacher and show they know the content, they do not have to go into reteach. If a child fails for rushing thru the test, they have an opportunity to take a similar test again right away. These tests are meant to be a positive experience for the students.

The purpose of the weekly assessments is to provide continued exposure to testing, building students confidence when testing and teaching test taking skills so that students who are required to take the state standardized tests are prepared and confident.

We have seen a marked increase in the test scores. We started in August and just took the 7th weekly assessment. More than half of the students scored 100% on the last test.

During our Fall Break Intercession which lasted 3 days, students showed an increase of 40% from the pre-test to the post-test. The first day we had 20 students and ended on the last day with 13.

We are seeing a big improvement in attitude and academics in all grades. The daily Social Emotional Learning program (SEL) is fostering more positive behavior and interactions between students and between staff and students. Another factor is the scheduling that Angela has set up to keep everyone busy during the day with very little down time. Students are always engaged in either small group activities, direct instruction or one-on-one tutoring.

No Action Needed

7. Set up Next Board Meeting

Set tentatively for December 10, 2021 @ 11:30 AM

8. Call for Public Comment

No public comment.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Gary Best/second by Ms. Cathy Rex - The Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:00 PM.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, Carol Towner & Cathy Rex (School Board)

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, David DeConcini, Earl Doran, Gary Best, & Angela Towner (Ed Ahead Board)